

Memorandum

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012

To: Transportation Committee

From: Peter Hahn, Director

Subject: **Director's Report**

Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF) Large Projects: Construction on the Bridging the Gap funded project on 33rd Ave NE between NE 125th & 130th Streets kicked off on Monday, April 16th with clearing, grubbing and excavation. The project will build a porous concrete sidewalk on the west side of the street where none exists today. The sidewalk will match the new sidewalk recently completed on the east side of the street by the Seattle Housing Authority and will complete much needed pedestrian improvements. Pedestrian lighting, curb bulbs, trees and plants will also be installed. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed in late May.

The NW 90th Street sidewalk project between 14th & 13th Avenues NW was completed last week. You can view before and after pictures on SDOT's blog at: <http://sdotblog.seattle.gov/2012/04/13/big-btg-benefits-for-neighborhoods-10-7-mil-and-counting/>

Bridge Deck Repairs Begin on Spokane St Viaduct: Crews have begun assessing the condition of the old viaduct bridge deck now that traffic has been temporarily shifted onto the new and adjacent viaduct structure. The picture here shows some readily apparent sixty years of wear including large amounts of exposed rebar.



The implementation of the Harbor Island on-ramp restriction limiting access to SR 99 has been a big traffic challenge since going into effect on April 12. Many vehicles, especially trucks, have been ignoring the restriction (put in place for lack of a merge lane) and are cutting over to the eastbound lanes. To



address this, we have added weighted barrels, installed more signage and will have SPD traffic police spot checking the site.

AWVSRP ACTT Selects Round 1 Scenarios: The fourth meeting of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program (AWVSRP) Advisory Committee on Tolling and Traffic Management (ACTT) was held on April 17th. The meeting focused on defining three "Round 1" alternatives to be modeled.

Committee members and staff shared a host of perspectives and insights. Several committee members noted that tolling individual facilities can create imbalance in the transportation system and unintended effects, therefore tolling the SR 99 should be considered as part of a broader "system tolling" strategy. Staff noted that given schedule constraints this could not be studied as part of the 2012 work effort, but could be considered in 2013 by the committee.

Ultimately, the committee agreed to move forward with the following scenarios proposed by staff. Each scenario varies the SR 99 tunnel toll rate schedule to achieve a desired outcome:

	Desired Outcome	Minimization action	Why consider this action?
Scenario 1	Achieve funding target of \$200 million	Medium toll rate	Create scenario that raises needed program funding. Determine diversion effects. Guiding principle: 4
Scenario 2	Minimize diversion	Lower toll during peak periods. No off-peak tolls.	Create scenario that reduces diversion. Determine level of revenue. Guiding principles: 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Scenario 3	Balance between funding and diversion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep freight in tunnel. Minimize diversion to Alaskan Way. 	Low toll rate during day. Reduce freight toll. Adjust toll rate in 2030. Lower afternoon peak rates to support waterfront / downtown livability goals. One-time adjustment for inflation.	Create scenario that encourages freight to use the tunnel, reduces diversion when the waterfront is busy and funds operating costs over time. Guiding principles: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

The above scenarios constitute the committee's "Round 1" model alternatives. In July the committee will define two "Round 2" model alternatives which may include refinements to the Round 1 scenarios and potential mitigation for the effects of diverted traffic on city streets and I-5.

The next meeting of the ACTT is scheduled for June 27th. Staff will present Round 1 model results. An interim meeting may be held on May 9th. Details and materials for upcoming and past meetings are available [online](#). General information about the ACTT is also available on WSDOT's [AWV website](#).

Busy Grant Season: A number of SDOT staff continue to be busy with grant activities. A few of the highlights include: Puget Sound Regional Council Grants – a number of processes are running simultaneously to distribute Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grants. On Friday April 6, staff submitted the First Hill Streetcar Broadway Extension project to the FTA competitive process. On Friday, April 13, that same project and Mercer West Underpass Segment were submitted to the regional competition. On Tuesday, April 17, SDOT made a presentation to PSRC and transit agency staff in support of the Broadway extension. Applications are being prepared for three PSRC Countywide processes that are due on May 11. Next steps are presentations to the various committees, scoring by PSRC staff with committee recommendations by the end of June. Initial PSRC Board decisions will be made in July.

Federal Bridge program and Safe Routes to Schools grant applications are due to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) on May 4. WSDOT has also announced a call for projects for its new and expanded Pedestrian and Bicycle Program and those applications will be due on June 30. Transportation Improvement Board is also revamping its programs and those applications will be due on August 31.

Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) Update: On April 18, SDOT executed a contract with Alta Planning + Design for the update of the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP). SDOT project staff and the consultant team will work over the next 12-15 months to accomplish a scope of work that was approved by the Council Transportation Committee at briefings in late February and early March. The scope includes updating the goals and objectives within the BMP, identifying high priority areas and corridors for future bicycle improvements, updating the bicycle network map, and developing an updated implementation strategy. The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board will be the primary public advisory group, but the plan update will include a comprehensive public engagement strategy. A near term focus of work will be having an on-line survey and web mapping tool on the project website by

Tree removal at Queen Anne Ave/ Roy St: A potentially very contentious and disruptive tree removal project was completed this week with minimal traffic disruptions and without any negative comments. Queen Anne and Roy is a very heavily traveled intersection for the Uptown / Queen Anne neighborhoods. Unfortunately, one of SDOT's street trees has been leaning farther and farther into the roadway over the years. The Mercer West project was planning to remove the tree in the next two years as part of their construction work, but SDOT's Urban Forestry division had safety concerns about the tree and asked that the removal be done ASAP.



This work was complicated by how close the branches came to a lot of utility lines, including live wires for Metro's electric trolley. SDOT was even able to have the contractor work with a tree salvage company so the trunk could be reused for furniture or some other useful purpose.

SDOT Public Website Stats

Week of: 04/08/2012 -- 04/14/2012

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Total website page visits ("hits") for week: 147,824

Total YTD (2012) website page visits ("hits"): 2,258,853

Most web pages this week:

- SDOT Home Page
- Bicycle Maps
- Burke-Gilman Trail Information and Maps
- Parking in Seattle
- Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) Program

Weekly Traffic Camera Usage Update

Week of: 04/08/2012 to 04/14/2012

Total Camera Images Viewed ("hits"): 2,101,873

Total Visitors Who Viewed Cameras: 148,091

Top 10 most popular cameras this week:

1. West Seattle Bridge mid-span
2. SR-99 & S Lander St
3. W Admiral Way & Chelan Ave
4. 11th Ave SW & SW Spokane Pl
5. E Marginal Way S & S Hanford St
6. 1st Ave S & E Marginal Way S
7. West Seattle Bridge @ Delridge Way
8. Broadway & E Pike St
9. NW Market St & 15th Ave NW
10. Fauntleroy Way SW & SW Alaska St